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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. El Salvador: Post-Election Coalition Building. With the election results now in, the Salvadoran political parties are discussing the possible composition of a coalition government. Our Embassy has been meeting with the Christian Democrats (40% of the vote and 24 assembly seats out of 60), ARENA (29% and 19 seats), and the PCN (19% and 14 seats) to encourage them to form a national unity coalition committed to the reform programs which are key to any continued support. The three leading parties agree on the need for reconciliation, continued US support, and a role for the military in the new government. They also believe that the massive voter turnout has reduced pressure for negotiations with the left. Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, a Christian Democrat, may be emerging as a widely acceptable leader. Major disagreements remain, however, and the discussions could continue for several days. Ambassador Hinton is actively (but discreetly) involved in the process.

2. Stoessel Meeting with Israeli Charge. In the absence of Ambassador Arens, en route to Israel for consultations, Walt Stoessel called in the Israeli Charge on my behalf tonight to express our dismay at Defense Minister Sharon's interview which virtually accuses our Consulate General in Jerusalem of fostering the PLO and terrorism in the West Bank. Sharon also asserted that the real U.S. policy is not Camp David, but pro-PLO and designed to pave the way for a Palestinian state. Stoessel told the Charge that such statements by a good friend and ally were unacceptable. The Charge had not yet seen Sharon's interview; he was certain Sharon had not intended to insult or to threaten. For his part, the Charge praised our Consul General and his staff in Jerusalem.

Walt also used this occasion to express our concern over the violence on the West Bank and particularly the reports that moderate Palestinian Mayors (such as Bethlehem's Mayor Freij) might be ousted by Israeli authorities. The Charge defended Israel's recent activities but noted that Israel is now using more humane riot control methods (e.g., rubber bullets); he felt the situation was calming down.

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BY RW NARA DATE 9/2/00

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